

## White House Conference on HELPING AMERICA'S YOUTH



WASHINGTON, D.C. – George Sifakis of Axela Government Relations, LLC represented HOSA Thursday, October 27, 2005 at the First Lady's *White House Conference on Helping America's Youth* at Howard University.

President Bush appointed First Lady Laura Bush as the leader of the initiative, Helping America's Youth, during his 2005 State of the Union Address. Helping America's Youth is focused on addressing and finding solutions to problems negatively impacting the future of America's at-risk youth. By educating children and teens about ways they can reach their full potential, Helping America's Youth hopes to encourage at-risk youth to strive to be their best.

HOSA was represented among 500 educators, researchers, child development specialists, faith-based and community service leaders who attended *The White House Conference on Helping America's Youth*. This one-day event highlighted the many challenges that children and teens experience including teen pregnancy, HIV/AIDS, and illiteracy and substance abuse leading to high dropout rates. The conference presenters used this opportunity to discuss proven solutions and programs that have helped at-risk youth overcome the common problems they face today.

President Bush and First Lady Laura Bush were included in the list of distinguished guest speakers. Secretary Mike Leavitt, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, served as the moderator during the "Connecting with Family" session, which focused on the importance of marriage. Secretary Elaine Chao, U.S. Department of Labor, and Secretary Margaret Spellings, U.S. Department of Education, served as moderators in the sessions, "Connecting with the community on a local level" and "Connecting with school."

HOSA's representation at this conference was a huge step in continuing our efforts to advance HOSA's awareness in Washington, D.C. and to share HOSA's important mission.